

Agriculture growth rate

1816. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission have admitted that boosting GDP growth in agriculture to 4 per cent during the Eleventh Five Year Plan is difficult to achieve because of demand and supply as Agriculture GDP grew at 1 per cent in the first three years of plan and projection for remaining two years of the plan is below 2 per cent;

(b) whether the agriculture growth rate for long has been between 2 and 2.5 per cent;

(c) whether RBI has also pointed that for a sustainable 8 per cent growth the agriculture sector should grow at par with the manufacturing and services sector; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve agriculture growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the draft Approach Paper to Eleventh Five Year Plan released on June 14, 2006, accelerating GDP growth in agriculture to around 4 per cent is not an easy task. Actual growth of agriculture GDP was only 1 per cent per annum in the first three years of tenth Plan and projections for 2005-06 and 2006-07 would limit this below 2 per cent for the full five year period.

(b) The realized growth rate in real terms in the agriculture sector was 4.7 per cent annum during Eighth Plan (1992-97) and 2.1 per cent during Ninth Plan (1997-2002) and 1.7 per cent during first four years of Tenth Plan.

(c) The RBI in its Annual Report-2005-06 has pointed out that for the Indian economy to sustain its growth momentum on sustained basis, the agriculture sector would have to play more important role than its has in recent years.

(d) The major steps taken to improve agriculture growth are as follows:

- Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in rice, wheat and other cereals base cropping system areas;

- enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure;
- ensuring timely availability of quality inputs;
- promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system;
- accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities;
- strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain;
- optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry land/rain fed farming system; and
- putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

Investment in Agriculture Sector

1817. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of investment made in the agriculture sector during the last three years through various schemes and projects;

(b) whether the investments in the agriculture sector has been declining continuously;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme to increase the investment in agriculture; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase the investments in the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The data on the extent of investment in the agriculture sector including allied sectors of forestry, logging and fishing, by both private and public sector, is captured in the statistics of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) compiled by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). The details of GCF in agriculture including allied sectors of forestry,